

# The Library Assistant :

*The Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians.*

No. 289.

OCTOBER, 1922.

Published Monthly.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The inaugural meeting of the Twenty-Eighth Session will be held at the London School of Economics, Clare Market, W.C., by kind permission of the authorities, on Wednesday, 25th October, at 7.30 p.m.

An address "The Librarian as Critic," will be given by the well-known writer and literary critic, **J. Middleton Murry, Esq., B.A., O.B.E.**, and the chair will be taken by **Sir William Beveridge, K.C.B.**, Director of the School.

Members will have an opportunity of inspecting the Library, through the kind offices of Mr. B. M. Headicar.

In following the tradition of past years by inaugurating the session's work with an address from an eminent figure in the literary world, the Council feels that it will have the backing of the whole Association, and hopes that everyone who possibly can, whether members or not, will avail themselves of this opportunity of meeting such a prominent figure as Mr. Murry.

The Sessional Programme is now well in hand, and we hope to publish a list of forthcoming meetings in our next issue.

## NORTH WESTERN DIVISION; LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT DIVISION.

The annual meeting of the Division will be held at the Free Church Rooms, The Arcade, Lord Street, Liverpool, at 7.30 p.m., on Friday, October 13th, 1922. Circulars giving further particulars are being sent to members.

A class in Library Routine is held at the Central Technical School, Liverpool, on Monday mornings, from 10 to 11 o'clock, and a class in Cataloguing will commence on Wednesday, the 18th October, at 9.45 a.m.

## SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

Programme of next Quarterly Meeting, Wednesday, October the 11th.

- 4.0 p.m. Meet in the Art Gallery, Public Library, etc., Church Street, Brighton.
- 4.45 p.m. Tea at the Pavilion Creamery.
- 5.30 p.m. Committee meets in Staff Room.
- 6.15 p.m. General meeting in one of the rooms of the Art Galleries, when a paper will be read by Miss Child, Public Library, Brighton.

E. MALE, *Hon. Sec.*

## YORKSHIRE DIVISION

The next meeting will be held at the Public Library, Walkley Lane, Heckmondwike, on Wednesday, November 8th, by kind invitation of the Heckmondwike Urban District Council.

Papers will be read by Miss M. Victoria Walker, of the Huddersfield Public Libraries, and Mr. Arthur Finney, Deputy City Librarian, York. The titles of these papers are not yet to hand, but members may rest assured that the high standard of quality reached by recent addresses will be maintained.

This will be the first occasion on which the division has visited the town, and the committee appeal for a big gathering of members as the local authority are sparing no efforts to make the meeting a successful one to all concerned.

Detailed programme of events will be circulated later.

WILFRID ROBERTSHAW, *Hon. Sec.*

## EDITORIAL.

**Major Newcombe's Promotion.**—On behalf of the Association, we take this opportunity of congratulating Major Luxmoor Newcombe on the occasion of his promotion to the Librarianship of the University College, London. Major Newcombe has been a good friend to our Association for many years in ways not generally known, and we sincerely hope that he will enjoy a long and happy term of office.

**Public Lectures.**—During October, two interesting public lectures will be given at University College, as follows. Admission is free, and it is hoped that a large number of our readers will avail themselves of the facilities offered for studying different phrases of library work.

October 11th (5.30).

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN RURAL LIBRARY WORK.**

A Discussion, in which the following will take part :

Miss A. S. Cooke, County Librarian, Kent Rural Libraries.

Col. J. M. Mitchell, O.B.E., Secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.

Capt. R. Wright, County Librarian, Middlesex Rural Libraries.

October 25th (5.30).

**THE ORGANISATION OF A GREAT LIBRARY**, by Mr. L. Stanley Jast, Chief Librarian, Manchester Public Libraries.

**The School of Librarianship.** —We have received a copy of the School of Librarianship's Syllabus for the ensuing session, together with a leaflet showing the special arrangements made for the part-time students, making it possible for any assistant working within reasonable distance of University College to take the whole course of study by easy stages, and so qualify for the Diploma issued by the University or by the Library Association. We imagine that this duplication of courses must entail a good deal of extra work on the part of the lecturers, and as the experiment is made in the interests of those actually working in libraries, we hope that all who possibly can will support the school in its effort to provide adequate opportunities of study for all.

**Propaganda.** —The Council is desirous of increasing the membership of the Association during the coming session, and to this end two leaflets have been prepared setting out the objects of the Association and the benefits that accrue from membership. The Honorary Secretary will be glad to send copies of these to any reader who will help the Council in its endeavour to widen the appeal of the Association, not only to those in municipal libraries, but also to the large number of men and women engaged in private and institutional libraries.

**Mr. Hogg's Resignation.** —While we cannot but rejoice that Mr. Hogg has been promoted to the borough librarianship of Battersea, it is a matter for regret that this has necessitated his resignation from the Council of the A.A.L., on which he has served with distinction for so many years. We take this opportunity of wishing him every success and happiness in his new work, which we shall follow with interest, as he will ours.

**Education and Conditions of Service in Scotland.** — The Scottish Library Association is to be congratulated on the excellent programme it has provided in connection with its Autumn course of lectures on library practice. In our view it affords a model of what a summer—or autumn—school should

be. The lecturers are amongst the best authorities in the profession, and the subjects are of the deepest interest to everyone engaged in the work.

Another useful service of the Scottish Library Association has been the compilation of a return showing the income, amount of rate levied, number of staff, and hours worked by the staff, in thirty-seven typical Scottish libraries. The incomes range from £74,040 down to £50, and the amount of rate levied from 3d. down to 1d. We are particularly interested in the hours column, which to our astonishment shows variety ranging for whole-time service from as low as 32 up to 84, the average being the generally accepted one of 42 to 44. There are two cases in which 84 is given, three of 70, one of 60, and three of 50. Our readers will agree that these last are a disgrace to librarianship and a double disgrace to the authorities concerned, whose names unfortunately are not given.

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#### 45TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor, LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

23rd September, 1922.

MY DEAR MR. SHARP,

The last time we met you asked me whether I would give you my impressions of this year's Conference at Cardiff, and in a moment of weakness, I consented. I say this because after some lengthy discussions with many of the delegates, I now realise how difficult it is to convey one's ideas so that they may be properly understood.

As you are no doubt aware, this is my second Conference, and my one regret is that I have not been to more. I am certain that if assistants only knew what real enjoyment and benefit can be obtained from this annual gathering, many more would make an effort to attend. The first thing that strikes a newcomer is the psychological effect of the button—of course you know all about the system of identification by means of the useful little badge. In this respect I was really more fortunate last year. At Manchester I lost my button, and as this is the *open sesame* to almost everything, it was a serious matter because there are no duplicates. I applied to the Conference office and " was issued with one " belonging to a delegate who at

the last moment had been prevented from coming. This promoted me to the rank of Director of Education for a most important district in the North of England. Certainly this alteration was posted up in the office, but nobody reads the notices unless there is an announcement of a free trip for a limited number, and then there is a real scramble. I hope I maintained the dignity of my rank, any way, I got plenty of amusement from it. This year I was only a sub., and when you see the chief librarian of an important library, with an income of about £500 a year (you know the sort I mean, where they employ besides the librarian, a boy and a caretaker) furtively looking up his list to see who he is talking to, you instinctively know that as soon as he finds you're not a chief, the game is up. Because you must remember that the real value of the Conference is the interchange of ideas, and it is almost impossible to imagine a dignified chief of fifty years' standing attempting to do such a thing with a mere sub.!

When you get these chiefs in the mass it is really fine to see the perfect confidence they have in their own opinions, and the self-satisfied air they possess.

As you listen to the old veterans talking, one constantly hears such remarks as, "Ah! d'you remember the conference in '92?" and then another caps that by saying "Yes, but what about '86 when we were at ———"; it makes you feel quite a stripling after hearing such remarks. They used to say in the army, "old soldiers never die"; well, it's pretty evident they are not unique in this respect.

However, to get to business, upwards of 300 members and friends attended the Conference, and we started off with a very enjoyable evening at the Central Library, where we were the guests of the local reception committee, and were entertained by the Cardiff Musical Society.

We got down to actual work on Tuesday morning, when the new President, Mr. John Ballinger, C.B.E., M.A., delivered his address.

The address, which had been printed, was circulated amongst the members so that they had an opportunity of studying it at their leisure. This was very fortunate as it was delivered in a voice which was practically inaudible to the majority of those present. Mr. Herbert M. Vaughan's paper on "Public Libraries and their Readers" which followed, was well thought out, and dealt largely with the question of literary taste and its formation. It created a tremendous

amount of discussion, as anyone with experience in this matter would naturally expect. But true to the tradition of the Chair at any Library Association meeting, the President stopped the discussion as soon as he saw that we were interested and that a number of delegates wanted to speak.

Many were so annoyed that there was a general stampede for the door, in which I joined, so that of Mr. H. Avray Tipping's paper on "The Development of Library Buildings and Fittings" I can tell you nothing. At this point I have to make a sad confession; the weather on Tuesday was so atrocious that a good many, amongst whom I was one, dodged the afternoon session altogether; in fact it has been whispered to me that many prominent and eminent (terms not always synonymous by the way) librarians whiled away the afternoon by playing billiards!

However, we fully atoned for this indiscretion on Wednesday and put in a full day. Mr. H. J. Laski, Vice-President of the British Institute of Adult Education, opened the morning session with an address on "The Public Library and Adult Education."

He dealt very thoroughly with the subject, and viewed it from every possible standpoint. The address brimmed over with enthusiasm and ideas; it was the latter, however, that proved his downfall. If there is one thing the librarians, as mainly represented at the Conference, do not require, it is real live ideas. His appeal was for a wide vision, naturally it fell on deaf ears. Not knowing his audience, he referred to the fact that we should never have an efficient library service until we have an improved status, which can only be brought about by increased salaries. Of course nearly all present considered that their particular library was efficient, although quite a number of librarians still have control over libraries using indicators, and the excuses and reasons they give for their retention are amazing, ludicrous and tragic, so that altogether Mr. H. J. Laski did not meet with general approval. The remainder of the day was taken up by papers on "Libraries and the Student," by Eric Thomas; "The Library and Social Welfare," by T. Vivian-Rees; "Works Lending Libraries," by E. J. Rees; "On Music Libraries," by Prof. Walford Davies; and "Ship's Libraries," by Albert Mansbridge, M.A. The outstanding feature of all these papers was that every speaker considered that the library should do something for his particular pet scheme. One's head, in fact, was in a maze at the end of the

day; there was the plea for the student, baby weeks, child welfare and nurseries were to be organised and catered for; gramophones were essential to a musical collection as also were organised musical evenings, and lastly we were told that there were three thousand ships which were waiting for libraries.

That is to say, Mr. Mansbridge having established this new venture, like all similar enthusiasts, finds that the thing is getting too big and thinks—rightly—that the services of the trained man should now be at his disposal. Of course he told us the old chestnut about the man in the stokehold who had a preference for reading Dante's "Inferno."

On Thursday morning Mr. St. John Ervine gave an address on "Libraries and Bookmen," which was easily the most brilliant and most enjoyable of all the papers given at this year's Conference. His contention was that the business of the public library was not to make experiments, but to create and preserve a standard. There should be no mediocre books, only the very best and the very bad should be provided, and then we should be able to demonstrate to the readers how good a good book can be, and how bad a really bad one can be. He dealt at length with the "penny dreadful" and Ethel M. Dell. The lack of sincerity of many present was, to my mind, most noticeable. It is a fact that amongst those who laughed their loudest at Mr. Ervine's criticism of Miss Ethel M. Dell's work were a number who the night before had attended the local "Empire" in preference to a highly interesting performance given by the Taff Vale Dramatic Society. As there was no time for discussion, Mr. L. Stanley Jast was the only delegate who made any remarks on the address, and he apparently missed the main idea entirely. Mr. Ervine had most obviously come down there to make a plea for culture, for that small minority who are real readers and are mostly inarticulate. He wanted to be assured that the youth of the country was being properly guided in its choice of books, so that at the psychological moment when a boy became tired of the "Big Budget" he would be guided to such a book as "Treasure Island" and thus graduate by progressive steps in the great realm of literature. The real problem was how to lead a reader of Ethel M. Dell to an author such as Thomas Hardy.

This was followed by Mr. Stanley Unwin, of Allen and Unwin's, who dealt with the existing relations between the public library and the publisher. He made many useful suggestions and showed how each could help the other by friendly co-operation. An informative and interesting paper on

"Miners' Libraries," read by Mr. D. L. Thomas, J.P., in the absence of Mr. T. I. Mardy Jones, M.P., brought to an end the business part of the Conference. The business meeting held on Friday morning was as usual the *pièce de résistance* of the Conference. The meeting was in an uproar most of the time; nearly every subject that was discussed by the members and practically every question asked were ruled out of order by the president, and everyone went away feeling that although it had been fine fun, it was unquestionably a great waste of valuable time. With all due respect to the officers who occupied the platform at the annual meeting, and they are undoubtedly entitled to great respect, as each has undoubtedly done yeoman service and worked hard for the profession, one instinctively felt that their active days were past and they should certainly make way for younger men, who might possibly give new life to a body which is slowly but surely growing moribund.

The citizens of Cardiff were generous in their hospitality, and the social programme was very full, but suffered in company with the business proceedings, through overcrowding. The annual dinner of the association was held at the Park Hotel on Thursday, and during the evening Mr. H. R. Tedder was presented with a gold watch as a mark of appreciation of his many years' service as honorary treasurer.

Next year's conference will be held at Eastbourne, and as this is one of the most popular seaside resorts on the south coast many assistants should be able to arrange their holidays so as to fit in with the Conference Week.

The views expressed in this letter may probably be thought unorthodox, but they are, at any rate, my own impressions.

Yours truly,

"A UBIQUITOUS SUB."

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## THE ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS:

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### WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT IS DOING.

The Association of Assistant Librarians was founded in 1895 to provide opportunities for persons engaged in library work (other than chief librarians) to meet together for the discussion of matters of professional interest, and for operating collectively in any direction calculated to benefit library conditions and librarianship generally.



**MEMBERSHIP:** Only assistants engaged in legitimate library work in public, institutional and private libraries are admitted to membership. The association is, therefore, *the only purely professional body* formed in the interests of librarians, and is thus enabled to give the most free and full attention to professional affairs. At the same time, workers in many kinds of libraries are drawn together, and a wide outlook on the profession is ensured.

Membership is of three grades: *Fellows*: persons holding the position of chief librarian, but hitherto members or associates of the association; *Members*: all persons engaged in library work other than chief librarians; *Associates*: all persons engaged in library work, other than chief librarians, of eighteen years of age and under.

The annual subscription is twelve shillings, eight shillings and four shillings respectively.

**MANAGEMENT:** The affairs of the association are managed by the officers and a council of twenty members, elected annually. Regulations ensuring that the council shall represent adequately all parts of the country are in operation.

**DIVISIONS:** Divisions of the association exist in various parts of the country, and new ones will be formed wherever the demand warrants this step. It is intended to make it possible for a library worker in any part of the British Isles to meet his or her fellow workers at some reasonably accessible centre. Each Division is self-controlled and conducts its affairs in the manner best suited to its local circumstances, but all members are members of the association, with the full privileges of membership.

The Divisions at present in existence are:

Midland Division.

North-Eastern Division.

North-Western Division, in two sections: Bolton and District Branch; Liverpool and District Branch.

South Coast Division.

Yorkshire Division.

**MEETINGS:** Monthly meetings are held from October to June, at which papers are read and discussed. The papers are usually the work of members of the association, but frequently

chief librarians, literary men and others contribute to the proceedings. Some of the most eminent men of the day have addressed the association, and have expressed their cordial appreciation of its activities.

International Easter Schools for the study of librarianship at home and abroad have also been organised, and although the war and its results have interrupted this work, it is the intention of the council to resume it at the earliest opportunity. By this means libraries in Holland, Belgium, Paris, Oxford and London have been visited and studied under the best possible conditions.

Each Division of the association also has its own programme of local meetings.

**PUBLICATIONS:** THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT, the official journal of the association, has been published monthly since January, 1898. Every fellow, member and associate receives a copy, and it is subscribed for by a large number of institutions as well as individuals. In addition to the proceedings and notices of the association, it contains papers on library topics, a survey of current news, reviews of professional literature and other matter likely to be interesting or useful to library workers. Assistants unable to attend meetings will find that they receive full value for their subscriptions from this magazine alone.

The "A.A.L. Series" consists of low-priced pamphlets on important aspects of librarianship, among which may be noted :

- No. 1. The Grammar of Classification. By W. C. Berwick Sayers, F.L.A. (Hons.), Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.
- No. 2. Libraries in Rural Districts. By Harry Farr, Chief Librarian, Cardiff Public Libraries.
- No. 5. Ideals: Old and New. An Address to Young Librarians. By E. Wyndham Hulme, B.A., formerly Librarian of the Patent Office Library.
- No. 6. The Library Committee: Its Character and Work. By W. C. Berwick Sayers, F.L.A. (Hons.), Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.
- No. 7. First Steps in Library Routine. By William Benson Thorne.

- No. 8. *First Steps in Library Cataloguing.* By William Benson Thorne.
- No. 9. *First Steps in Annotation in Catalogues.* By W. C. Berwick Sayers, F.L.A. (Hons.), Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.

To be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Bromley Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar, E.14. Cost, sevenpence each, post free, should accompany all orders.

The Association has also published "A List of English and American Sequel Stories," by Mr. Thomas Aldred, price six shillings net. Proceeds from the sale of this book go to the Benevolent Fund, through the courtesy of Mr. Aldred.

**THE A.A.L. LIBRARY.** The Association is fortunate in possessing a very complete professional library amounting to over 800 volumes and many hundreds of pamphlets. This collection is housed at the Islington Central Library, 68 Holloway Road, N., and is available to all fellows, members and associates. Readers have only to pay postage on books borrowed.

**BENEVOLENT FUND:** A fund has been created for the benefit of necessitous assistants or their dependents.

**WHAT THE A.A.L. HAS DONE AND IS DOING:** By enabling assistants from all kinds of libraries to meet and exchange views, it broadens the outlook of its members and gives new interest to their work.

By organising International Easter Schools it still further extends this outlook and interest.

By making possible co-operative effort for the benefit of library conditions and work generally, it has improved the conditions of service in British libraries to an extent that can hardly be calculated. An example of this feature of the Association's activities was the 1911 "Report on the hours, salaries, training and conditions of service of assistants in British municipal libraries," which has had a powerful influence in the removal of unwarrantably long hours and low rates of remuneration. Work to this end is still an important part of the duties of the Council, which keeps a watchful eye upon all attempts to revert to the unsatisfactory standards of past time.

Members are enabled to keep up-to-date in library matters by means of the monthly journal; and through the Association's library, means of study and improvement are provided.

British librarianship has now arrived at a critical period when the utmost effort must be made to preserve what has been gained and to foster as much progress as possible. This effort must be made collectively, and assistant librarians of all grades and classes can make their influence felt in no better way than by joining the Association of Assistant Librarians.

### OFFICERS.

*President.*—E. C. Wickens, Reference Library, Liverpool.

*Vice-President.*—W. H. Parker, Central Library, Hackney.

*Honorary Treasurer.*—R. Cooper, Central Library, Battersea.

*Honorary Editor.*—Henry A. Sharp, Central Library, Croydon.

*Honorary Secretary.*—Gurner P. Jones, B.A., Central Library, Stepney (from whom any further information, forms of application for membership, etc., may be obtained).

*Divisional Honorary Secretaries.*—Midland: L. Chubb, Central Lending Library, Birmingham. North Eastern: I. Briggs, Central Library, Newcastle. North-Western: General Secretary, J. T. Evans. Liverpool and District: J. T. Evans, Reference Library, Liverpool. Bolton and District: J. Cranshaw, Bolton. South Coast: Ernest Male, Public Library, Brighton. Yorkshire: Wilfrid Robertshaw, Central Library, Bradford.

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**Meeting at University College.**—All the Librarians and Library Assistants in London and the immediate neighbourhood were invited to a meeting at University College, on Sept. 27th, to meet the Provost, Sir Gregory Foster, and the Director of the School of Librarianship: about 30 attended. The Provost took the chair, and after a brief address called upon the Director to give some details regarding the courses offered to part-time students and others in the School. Messrs. Esdaile, Headicar, Sayers, Newcombe, and Prideaux also spoke, and questions were asked by members of the audience and answered from the chair. The general drift of the speeches was to the following effect:—

The School of Librarianship was established for two purposes (1) to assist those actually engaged in library work to qualify themselves for a successful career, and (2) to provide a training for those wishing to enter the profession. The former object was the more important. It would be very unwise to prepare too many candidates for the limited number of appointments available, and so to make the present competition more severe. Accordingly, those applying for admission to the School were subjected to a most searching process of selection, and the number of those enrolled was kept at a moderate figure. But among the many hundreds of assistants in the London area, whose numbers were constantly being recruited, there was an almost unlimited field of work for the School.

Two methods of training and qualifying by examination for library service are available, which may be described, by analogy with the Degrees of University of London, as External and Internal; the External qualification is represented by the L. A. Diploma: the Internal by the University Diploma or the Sessional Certificates awarded by University College. The question of relative value of these diplomas, although much discussed, was of trivial importance. It was desirable, however, that the courses prescribed should correspond as far as possible, and it was to be found, by comparison, that they are practically equivalent. The University requires no thesis, but demands a knowledge of Palæography and Archives instead. The Internal method consists of personal training in the School; the External Course means that an assistant learns by slow experience in a library and, perhaps, takes a correspondence course. Correspondence classes are not worthless, but may be described as "better than nothing." Formerly, the Library Association did not allow students in the London area to take the Correspondence Classes, but insisted on their attending the classes organised by the Association.

A point which was well brought out, is that the school of Librarianship trains not only for the University Diploma but also for the Library Association Certificates and Diploma. It provides the very best facilities for those assistants who aim at the latter Diploma, and it is hoped that all who have that aspiration will not overlook the advantages offered. Even those who fail at the Entrance Examination required of candidates for the University Diploma should remember that they can still go on and obtain Sessional Certificates, and also that they can attend classes which will qualify them to sit for the Library Association Certificates and Diploma.

The time-table has been prepared for the special convenience of those employed in libraries, nearly every subject being duplicated, and both a day and evening class provided. Students have access not only to the School Library of technical literature (2,000 vols.), but also to the College Libraries (150,000 vols.), and the College Societies' social meetings, etc.

A number of those attending the meeting filled up forms and entered themselves as students.

## OUR LIBRARY.

**Note.**—At this season of the year it is well to draw the attention of students to the Association's Library, which contains at least one copy of practically every professional text-book. The Library is free to members on payment of the cost of carriage. Application to be made to Mrs. Hazard, Central Library, Islington, N.

**ALDRED, THOMAS, Editor.** A List of English and American Sequel Stories. 74 pp.  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ -in. 1922. Boards. (*Library Assistants' Association*). 6s. 0d.

A most useful list for librarians, booksellers and readers, all of whom are sometimes at a loss to know the order or extent of many well-known series of stories and novels. The editor has included in his list those in which the same character appears in more than one book; series forming a continuous narrative of events; trilogies and similar series, together with explanatory notes where they are required.

It is printed in a single alphabet of authors in double columns, the volume containing some 5,000 titles. The form of entry is as under :

**Ellis, E. S.** [H. R. Gordon.]

*Boy Pioneer series* :—

1. Ned in the block house.
2. Ned in the woods.
3. Ned on the river.

In such a list it is not easy to ensure either its completeness or its accuracy, but we understand that Mr. Aldred has given many years to the study of the subject, and in many cases the particulars have been verified by the actual authors of the works.

May we express the hope that librarians and others will show their appreciation of Mr. Aldred's work by adding copies of the book to their libraries? By doing so they will provide themselves and their readers with a valuable tool, and will also help the Benevolent Fund of our Association, which, by the editor's generosity, will receive the whole of the profits resulting from the sales.

GRAY, Duncan. *County Library Systems: their History, Organisation and Administration*, 184 pp., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. by 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ -in., 1922. *Cloth. Grafton. 7s. 6d. Coptic Series.*

The author, who is well known as the librarian of the Warwickshire Rural Libraries, one of the most efficient of such systems in the country, describes his book as an attempt to formulate a co-ordinated policy for county public libraries. Those who know anything of this type of library work will agree as to the desirability of such a policy and Mr. Gray is to be congratulated in that he has done something to make such co-ordination possible. There are other professional books which the rural librarian must have, but in the future we cannot imagine anyone embarking on the work without reference to the volume before us, which is the result of several years' personal experience.

There is a short historical sketch of the movement, chapters showing how the Acts may be put into operation, and others on the technical details connected with the organisation and administration of the system.

It is evident that Mr. Gray's rural libraries would not degenerate into mere agencies for the circulation of books, of which it can only be said that they are cheap, but would be concerned to provide the best literature, with other things likely to minister to the intellectual wants of the people of the countryside. He advocates lectures for adults and children, musical concerts and so forth. The rural librarian's nightmare—transport—is dealt with fully, with a view to showing how to obtain a combination of the cheapest and most expeditious service. The bibliographies at the end of the chapters are useful for further readings.

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It is pleasing to see that librarians are gradually becoming recognised as the proper people to write local histories and similar works. In this connection we have just received two volumes from Auckland, New Zealand, on which we congratulate Mr. John Barr, the chief librarian of that city, who is responsible for them. The first is "The City of Auckland, New Zealand, 1840-1920," a handsome, well-illustrated and deeply interesting volume of 255 pages, the first attempt to write a connected history of the city.

The other, equally well-produced and illustrated, is the "Municipal and Official Handbook of the City of Auckland, New Zealand," which has been produced under the editorship of Mr. Barr. The volume contains a wealth of information relative to the city, including a section on the public libraries, which, as we gather from the letterpress and excellent photographs are institutions of which the citizens have a right to be proud.

The two books are productions of which the Auckland City Council may be justly proud, and we share in that pride because of the part that one of our fellow workers has played in connection with them.

### APPOINTMENTS.

\*W. R. BRIDGE (Battersea), to be 1st Senior Assistant, Battersea.

\*R. COOPER (Battersea), to be Deputy Librarian, Battersea.

\*THOMAS COULSON (Belfast), to be Borough Librarian, Hereford. Salary £300.

M. L. HODGES (Hammersmith), to be Senior Assistant, Hackney. Salary £220-£300. Final selection :—M. L. Hodges, W. T. Williams (Middlesbrough),

\*H. V. Woods (Stoke Newington).

\*LUXMOOR NEWCOMBE, sub-Librarian, University College Library, London, to be Librarian in succession to Dr. R. W. Chambers.

\*J. D. GIFFORD, Bolton, to be librarian, Leigh, Lancs. Salary £250.

†J. F. PREECE, acting librarian, St. Pancras, to be borough librarian.

\* Member, A.A.L. † Fellow, A.A.L.

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### NEW MEMBERS.

ASSOCIATE: G. Foskett (Watford).

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**Salisbury.**—As we go to press we learn that the City of Salisbury requires a Secretary and Librarian for £160 per year. We hasten to record our disgust at the meagreness of the salary, and to hope that no member of the A.A.L. will lower his dignity to apply for the position unless the terms of the advertisement are revised.

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### GLAMORGAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Wanted a Man or Woman as Librarian for the Committee's Rural Library Scheme. Salary £300, rising by annual increments of £20 to a maximum of £400 per annum.

Preference will be given to candidates with experience of Library work and a knowledge of Welsh.

The person appointed will act subject to and under the direction of the Chief Education Official. He or she will be required to devote his or her whole time to the duties, and reside in a centre fixed by the Committee.

Applications, on forms which will be supplied on receipt of a stamped foolscap envelope, must reach the Chief Education Official, County Hall, Cardiff, by the 13th October, 1922.